

Community Health Worker Advisory Committee - Meeting

November 16, 2020 –1:00 p.m. (Google Meet)

Draft Minutes

Advisory Committee Members

Lillian Amaya	Rosario Campos	Camisha Coke	LaKerry Dawson
Cheryl De Pinto, Chair		Griselda Funn	Katie Gilligan
Robin Hollar	Jude James	Rebecca Jones	Ryan Moran
Betty Muwwakkil	Rachal Parran	Yanna Rachinskaya	Tiffany Scott

Maryland Department of Health Staff

Cheryl De Pinto Tina Backe Adrienne Taylor Deborah Donohue

Welcome & Roll Call/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. Tina Backe and Cheryl De Pinto welcomed and greeted the State Community Health Worker (CHW) Advisory Committee members and the public. Each Committee member introduced themselves.

Opening Remarks

Tina re-introduced Cheryl De Pinto as the Secretary's designee as Chair of the Advisory Committee. Cheryl thanked everyone for their work. Not only are we challenged now, but we will continue to be challenged moving forward as we navigate through these difficult times. There are several important initiatives at the State level - the first being the diabetes indicator related to the Maryland Total Cost of Care model. The Diabetes Action Plan includes the work of CHWs as one of the ways to meet the goals and metrics from the federal government.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Approval of August 17th, October 9th, and October 24, 2020 meeting minutes

August 17th minutes: motion by Ryan Moran, second by Rosario Campos; unanimously approved.

October 9th minutes: motion by Ryan Moran, second by LaKerry Dawson; unanimously approved.

October 24th minutes: motion by Ryan Moran, second by Griselda Funn; unanimously approved.

CHW Certification Program Update

Related to COVID- 19

- Sec. Neall suspended the March 31, 2020 deadline for CHWs to submit applications for certification based on experience until 30 days after the state of emergency has been terminated.
- 500 CHWs certified as of the original deadline of March 31, 2020.
- The deadline suspension has allowed an additional 177 CHWs to be certified to date.
- Application submitted: 753
- Total CHW certificates issued: 677

CHW Certification Renewal Application

- The CHW Certificate Renewal Application is open on Maryland OneStop.
- CHWs are encouraged to begin their renewal application once they are certified.
- Renewal applications to be submitted 30 days before the certificate expiration date.
- Six CHW Certificate Renewal Application webinars offered between October 21 and November 14.
- 193 individuals registered.
- Webinars covered:
 - The Maryland OneStop CHW Certificate Renewal application.
 - Process for documenting 20 hours of professional development activities.

CHW Certification Training Program Accreditation Update

- Applications submitted: 7
- Applications in review process: 2
- Total accreditations issued: 5

CHW Accredited Training Program Practicum – Potential Accommodation

1. A CHW certification training program shall verify successful completion of an additional supervised 40-hour practicum by a student. (COMAR 10.68.02.03.A(2))
2. As a result of COVID-19
 - There have been changes in education, training, and employment venues.
 - There is a concern that CHW students may have difficulty finding a Practicum, but given how valuable CHWs are in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, they may be able to find employment as a CHW.
 - The Advisory Committee met on September 24th and October 9th to consider a potential accommodation to the Practicum component of accredited CHW certification training programs during the COVID-19 state of emergency.
 - If approved by the Department, accredited CHW training programs will be able to accept CHW employment in place of the 40-hour Practicum if certain conditions are met.

CHW Apprenticeship Program Accreditation

- Health General § 13-3705(a)(1)(iii)
 - An apprenticeship program registered with the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation may be accredited by the Department as a certified community health worker training program.
- Health General § 13-3705(a)(2)
 - The Department, working in collaboration with the Advisory Committee, shall adopt regulations establishing a procedure for accrediting community health worker training programs.

- **Request:** Three to five members of the Advisory Committee to participate in a workgroup
 - **Goals:** Consider and recommend potential amendments to COMAR 10.68.02 regarding the accreditation of apprenticeship programs registered with the Department of Labor.
 - **Time commitment:** Three meetings between November 2020 and January 2021.
- Meeting #1: Discuss the accreditation process for apprenticeship programs.
- Meeting #2: Review potential amendments to COMAR 10.68.02.
- Meeting #3: Finalize draft potential amendments to be presented at the February 16th Advisory Committee meeting.
- Volunteers: Tiffany Scott, Yanna Rachinskaya, and LaKerry Dawson
 - (Note: Tiffany Scott moved to the CHW specialty certification workgroup. Robin Hollar later volunteered to substitute in Tiffany's place.)

CHW Additional Updates

- CHW Panel Presentations
 - Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA) 2020 Conference
 - Community Health Workers: Increasing in Strength and Capacity
 - October 19, 2020
 - Minority Health and Health Disparities (MHHD) 2020 Health Equity Conference
 - Reconfiguring Public Health for Improved Minority Health Impact (Community Health Workers)
 - December 3, 2020
- Johns Hopkins Public Health Applications for Student Experience (PHASE) Project
 - Rachael Molitor, JHU MPH student and OPHI PHASE intern will be working on the process to implement CHW specialty certifications.
 - Convene a group of subject matter experts for input on the criteria for specialty certifications. Rachael will present her project at the next Advisory Committee meeting in February.

CHW Employment Opportunities

- The complete source for CHW employment opportunities at the MDH is the [State of Maryland Job Openings webpage](#)
- CHW Website: [Employment Opportunities webpage](#)
 - Another place for CHWs to find State of Maryland CHW positions

CHW Advisory Committee Meeting Dates

Quarterly meeting of full Advisory Committee, 1 PM – 3 PM, at MDH or virtually.

- February 16, 2021 (NOTE: This is a Tuesday. February 15 is a holiday.)
- May 17, 2021

- August 16, 2021
- November 15, 2021

Open Discussion:

- **CHW Survey – Intimate Partner Violence**

Zahra Saboori, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Behavioral and Community Health at University of Maryland School of Public Health in College Park. Ms. Saboori is completing her dissertation on Community Health Workers Managing Intimate Partner Violence. The survey assesses knowledge, attitudes, practice issues related to Community Health Workers managing clients who are victims of Intimate Partner Violence. Participation in this survey is voluntary and your answers will be anonymous.

Survey link: https://umdsurvey.umd.edu/jfe/form/SV_42Y2yZdAdCBbVDn. For questions, contact Zahra Saboori at zsaboori@umd.edu or 240-643-8875.

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Rosario Campos and seconded by LaKerry Dawson, the Committee approved by general consensus without objection to adjourn at 2:10 p.m.